



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

MCO 6600.3A  
HS  
MAR 23 2007

MARINE CORPS ORDER 6600.3A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: DENTAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Ref: (a) ASD (HA) Policy Memo 06-001 of 9 Jan 2006  
(b) ASD (HA) Policy Memo 02-011 of 4 Jun 2002  
(c) BUMED Notice 6110 of 16 Feb 2006  
(d) MCO P1326.6D

1. Situation. To revise the current directive that promulgates a comprehensive and clearly defined Dental Health Care Program for the United States Marine Corps and assigned Navy personnel.

2. Cancellation. MCO 6600.3.

3. Mission. The mission of the Marine Corps Dental Health Care Program is the timely attainment of dental readiness by all USMC units and oral health for each individual. Military doctrine requires rapid response and prolonged sustainment of deployed forces. Dental disease, left untreated, may impair performance and adversely impact the combat effectiveness of deployed units.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Dental health care resources will be prioritized and employed to maintain the dental readiness of deploying units and the dental health of individual Marines and Sailors. Operational dental readiness shall be 100 percent for units deploying for extended periods of time and at least 95 percent for all units per reference (a).

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(2) Concept of Operations. Organizations are responsible for the overall dental health of personnel assigned and shall ensure that unit dental readiness is at or above 95 percent. Commanding officers at dental battalions/naval dental centers in support of USMC units shall coordinate and prioritize resources to maximize dental readiness and promote oral health of Marine units.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Main Effort. Organizational commanders shall establish liaison with the supporting dental activity, and coordinate the scheduling of appointments. Positive action will be taken to ensure all scheduled appointments are filled within the limitations of operational requirements.

(2) Supporting Effort. Commanding officers at dental battalions/naval dental centers in support of USMC organizations shall ensure that personnel are trained and resources are available to meet the dental treatment requirements of supported units.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Reference (a) states that the dental readiness target of 95 percent of all Navy and Marine Corps units is a goal that must be maintained to insure a healthy, fit force.

(2) References (b) and (c) set dental classification guidelines.

(3) Reference (d) sets dental classification requirements for recruiting and security guard duty.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Organizational commanders will provide their supporting dental clinic with accurate and timely unit rosters on a monthly basis. Dental battalion commanding officers will provide organization commanders with monthly dental readiness reports or when required by the organization commander.

b. Commanding officers at dental battalions/naval dental centers will maintain a comprehensive dental health program that includes:

(1) Periodic oral examinations and risk assessments.

(2) Timely and routine delivery of systemic and topical agents that increase resistance to dental disease, especially for those individuals who have been identified to be at moderate or high risk for dental caries.

(3) Education and counseling to control and modify risk factors that predispose to oral diseases, especially cancer, dental decay, and periodontal disease.

(4) Frequent monitoring of unit and individual dental health and readiness.

(5) Appointment systems that are flexible, responsive to unit OPTEMPO and facilitate Marines and Sailors obtaining timely treatment to attain the prescribed standard of dental readiness and achieve dental health.

6. Command and Signal

a. Signal. This Order is effective immediately.

b. Command. This Order does not apply to the Marine Corps Reserve.



R. S. KRAMLICH  
Director, Marine Corps Staff

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